New Bedford

AND VICINITY

NEW BEDFORD

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS, situated on the west bank of the Acushnet River which flows into an arm of Buzzard's Bay, was, about half a century ago, at its height in its making industry, namely whaling. At that time, the year 1857, the fleet from this port pursuing the monarch of the deep consisted of over four hundred vessels, and required in the neighborhood of twelve thousand seamen to man them. In addition to these men, the industry gave employment to a vast army of ship-carpenters, riggers, caulkers, blacksmiths, etc., etc., who were kept busy constantly fitting out before and repairing the vessels after their strenuous voyages. For years these blubber hunters had been returning to their owners and officers, and as well as to their crews, thousands and thousands of dollars, which wealth was carefully husbanded by the two former, but quickly squandered by the latter. Officers of vessels, who had saved their hard-earned gains, bought or built homes in which to enjoy their rest after long service on the seas, and these fine old residences are land marks of the city today.

For years New Bedford had been the leading whaling port of the world, but following the trend of events of an ever progressing country, there came a time when the whaling industry began to wane, and the causes are manifold that led to the decline. While the whale fishery furnished the lighting power for the world, it seemed as if whale oil were the only thing that would answer this purpose, but high prices of the oil forced the introduction of substitutes, and the first was lard oil. While this did not fully take the place, it became a serious factor in the market. But the discovery of oil in Pennsylvania was the important blow to the whaling business, and though its introduction was resisted and impeded, the improved product was soon freed from its dangerous character, and petroleum became a staple product of the land. It was at this time that the whaling merchants foresaw that they must quickly look in another direction for a profitable investment for their money, and as the cotton mill industry offered the safest and best inducements, and as this business was past its experimental stage, owing to the success of the Wamsutta Mills, which venture was really an experiment at its incorporation, this industry was taken up. As the whaling business continued to decline, the cotton mill industry continued to advance, and broaden out into the manufacture also of fine cotton goods and fine cotton yarns. Today New Bedford ranks second in the United States in the number of spindles, as it has for several years past, and is first in the manufacture of fine cotton goods and fine cotton yarns. It is appropriate here to quote the words of the late Honorable Thomas B. Reed, who on a former occasion wrote concerning our city:—"If its sturdy people could no longer roam the seas, conquering its hugest monster, they could make the spindles whirl with successful life on shore."

PUBLISHED BY

L. H. NELSON COMPANY, - PORTLAND, MAINE

Publishers of Souvenir Books and Views of Prominent Cities and Summer Resorts

CORNER UNION AND WATER STREETS IN 1810

The building at the extreme left of the picture was formerly the residence of William Rotch, great-grandfather of ex-Mayor Morgan Rotch. The elder Rotch may be seen in his chaise in the center of the picture. His residence was afterward altered into the Old Mansion House

CITY HALL SQUARE

New Bedford City Hall, a fine Colonial structure with Doric pillars supporting the portico, may be seen on the extreme left. Just beyond is the Public Library with the Odd Fellows' Building directly opposite

CITY HALL

Besides containing a large, well lighted hall in the second story, this building is used for some of the city offices on the ground floor and for the city council chambers on the third floor

NEW BEDFORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

This was the first free public library in the United States. It also contains the offices of Mayor, City Clerk, City Treasurer, Auditor and Assessors

POST OFFICE

The two-story stone building standing just beyond the Post Office on the left is the United States Custom House

BRISTOL COUNTY COURT HOUSE

In this building was held the trial of Lizzie Borden of Fall River who was accused of murdering her father and mother. The crime and trial caused intense excitement throughout the whole country.. The accused was acquitted after a long and thorough trial

HARRINGTON TRAINING SCHOOL

Normal and primary school combined. Students in the former are for the greater part residents of the city

Y. M. C. A.

Erected in 1890. Contract price $45,000; lot, $17,000, and cost of furnishings $5,000. While this property is not self-supporting as yet, depending on annual contributions to its fund, it is free from all debt and incumbrance

WAMSUTTA MILLS

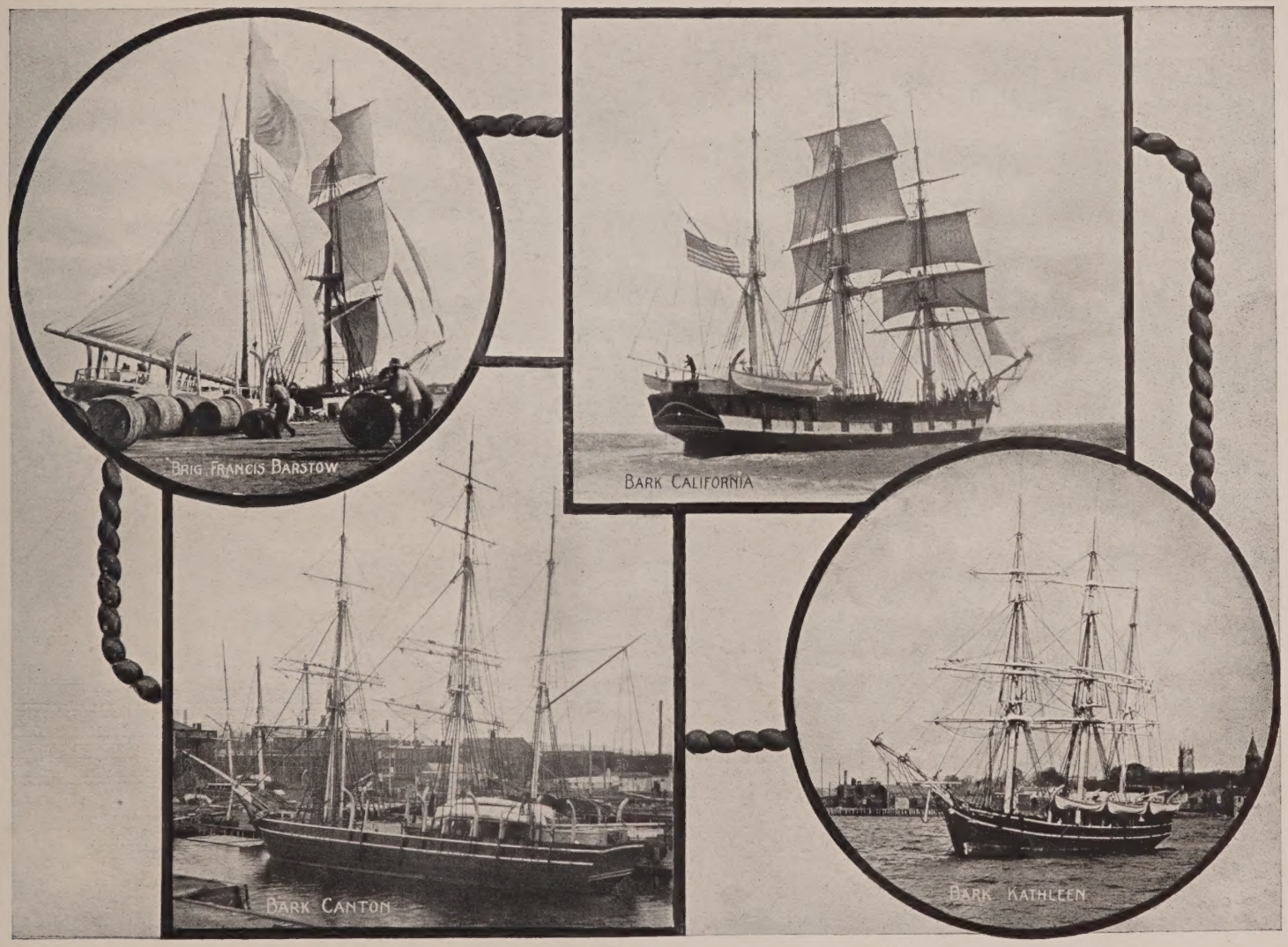
The first cotton mills built in New Bedford. In the distance may be seen the mills of the Grinnell Manufacturing Company, Bristol Manufacturing Company and the Columbia Spinning Company

POTOMSKA MILLS

Until quite recently the largest single cotton mill in this country. Residence of Henry H. Rogers in Fairhaven is shown in the distance on the right

MERRILL'S WHARF IN 1870

This picture gives a good view of the old whale ships and their catchings, also casks of whale oil in the open and others covered with seaweed



A GROUP OF WHALING VESSELS

EVENING STANDARD BUILDING

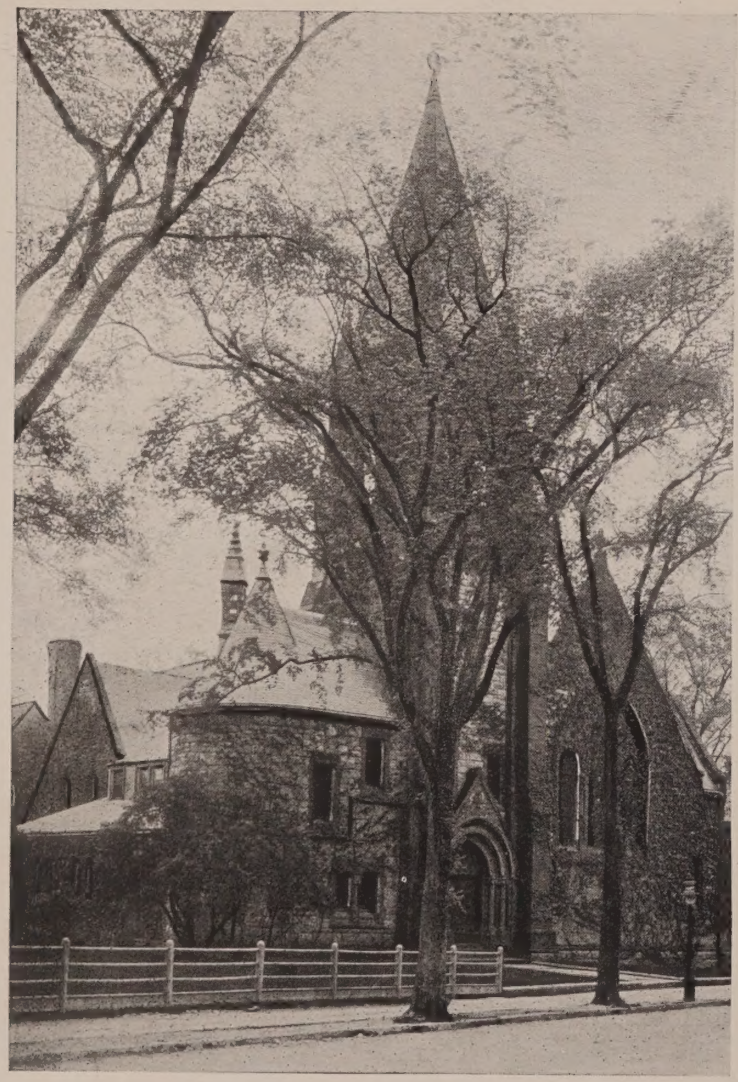
The Evening Standard, an afternoon paper of four editions, and the Republican Standard, a weekly paper issued every Thursday, are published here

NEW BEDFORD TEXTILE SCHOOL

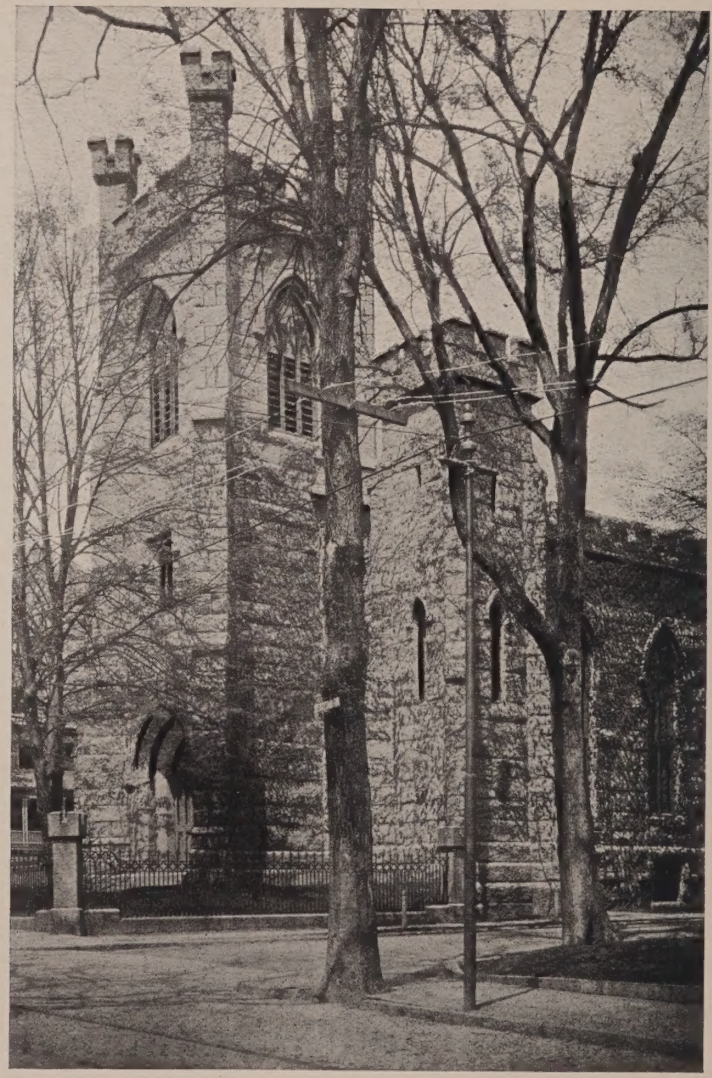
The second textile school in Massachusetts built by the state

COUNTRY STREET, WAMSUTTA CLUB ON THE LEFT

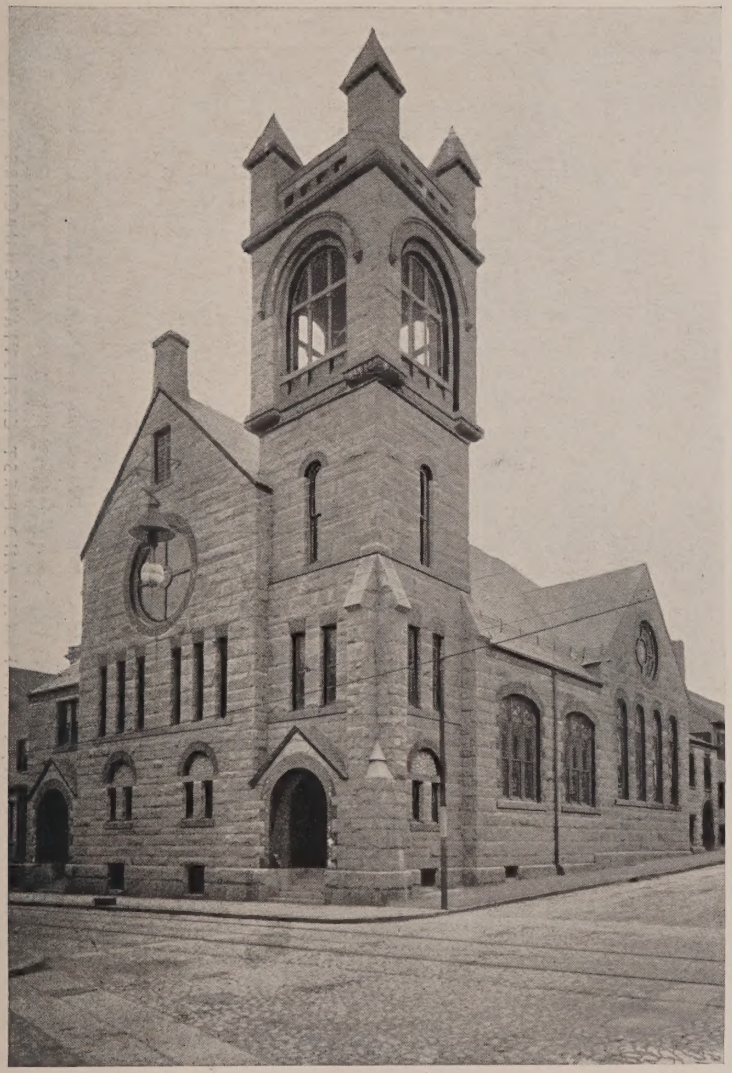
One of the prettiest of the city's residential streets. Many of the former owners and officers of whaling vessels lived on this street. In 1778 the British troops with Major Andre marched up this street, burning the houses on either side as they went along



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Leading Episcopal Church in the city



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (UNITARIAN)
The bell in the tower of this church was cast by Paul Revere in Revolutionary times



TRINITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ST. LAWRENCE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

NORTH CONGREGATIONAL AND FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

From the stone tower of the former is still rung the nine o'clock curfew every night except Saturday

TWO OF NEW BEDFORD'S CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS

Under the management of some of the wealthiest people of the city

THE BENNETT HOUSE
THE A. H. HOWLAND HOUSE
THE MORGAN ESTATE
RESIDENCE OF LATE ATTORNEY GEN'L HOSEA M. KNOWLTON
RESIDENCE OF JOHN DUFF

SOME PROMINENT NEW BEDFORD RESIDENCES

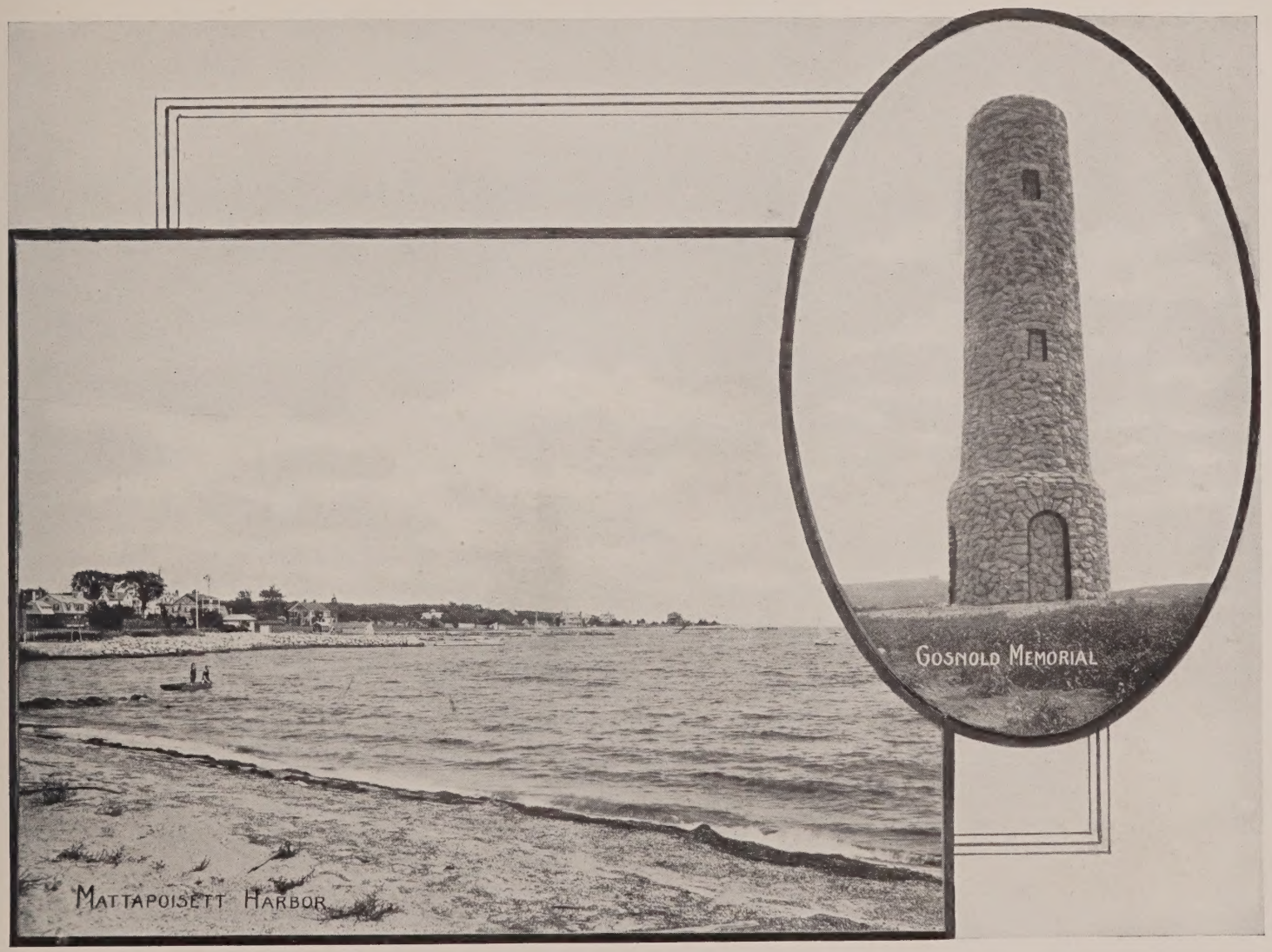
THE BENNETT HOUSE was formerly occupied by Thomas Bennett, the first superintendent of the Wamsutta Mills
MORGAN ESTATE. Site of the new High School. Formerly owned and occupied by Joseph Russell, the first settler of New Bedford
THE A. H. HOWLAND HOUSE was formerly owned by the first mayor of New Bedford. It is now in the possession of a syndicate of adjacent property owners

COUNTRY CLUB

The membership of this club is made up of many of the city's most prominent men, both business and professional

NEW BEDFORD YACHT CLUB HOUSE AT PADANARAM

Padanaram is fast becoming a popular summer resort



MATTAPOISETT HARBOR

Mattapoisett is situated about seven miles from New Bedford and has direct electric and steam railway connection. It is rapidly becoming quite a summer resort

GOSNOLD MEMORIAL ON CUTTYHUNK ISLAND

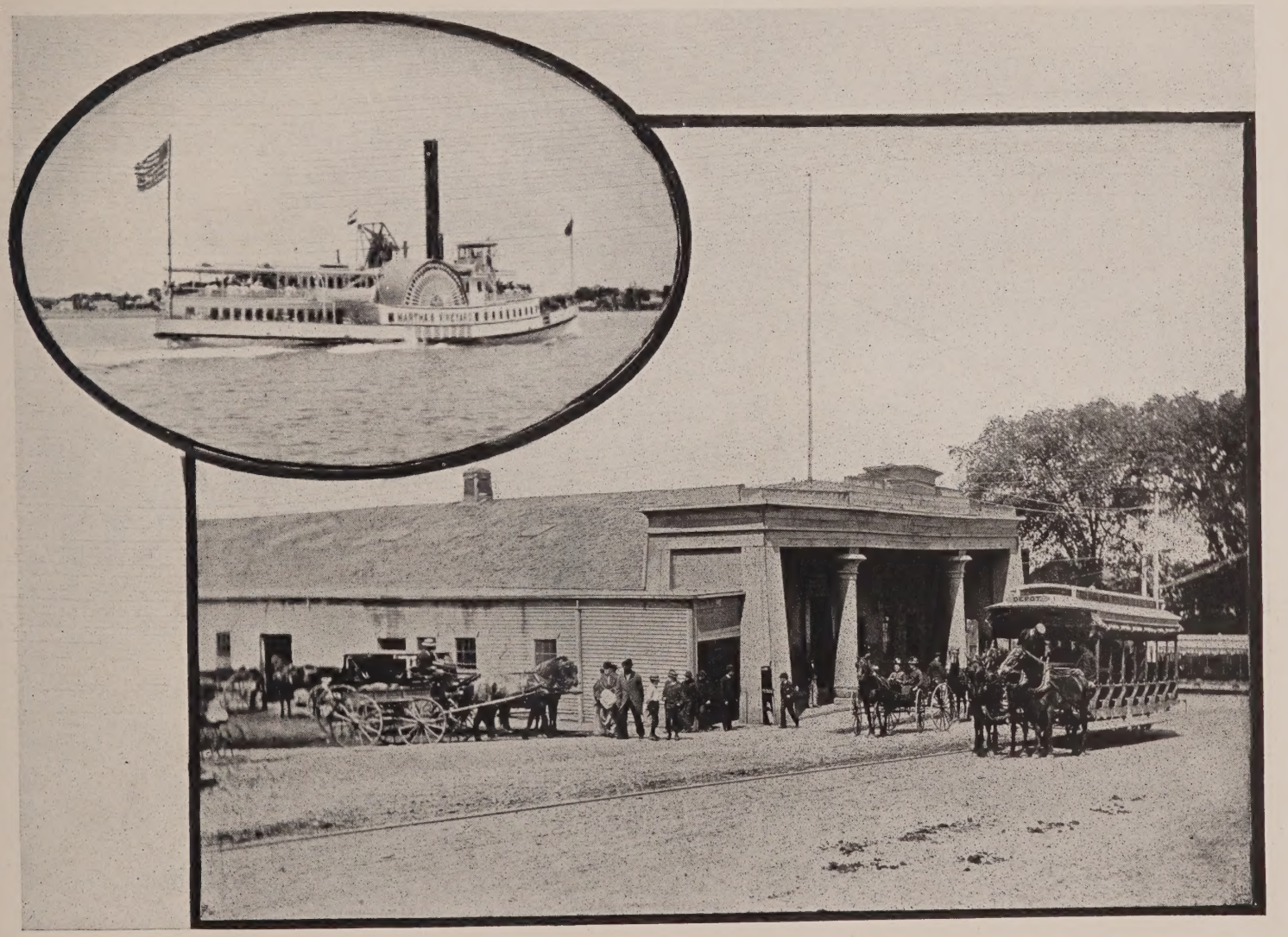
This monument was dedicated during the summer of 1903 to commemorate the landing of Bartholomew Gosnold on the New England coast in 1607

PUBLIC BATHING BEACH

This is a municipal enterprise and is greatly patronized, especially by the mill operatives

HAYING ON THE POOR FARM

The Poor Farm is situated on the Point Road, a fine macadamized driveway four miles long around a peninsula which extends into the waters of Buzzard's Bay

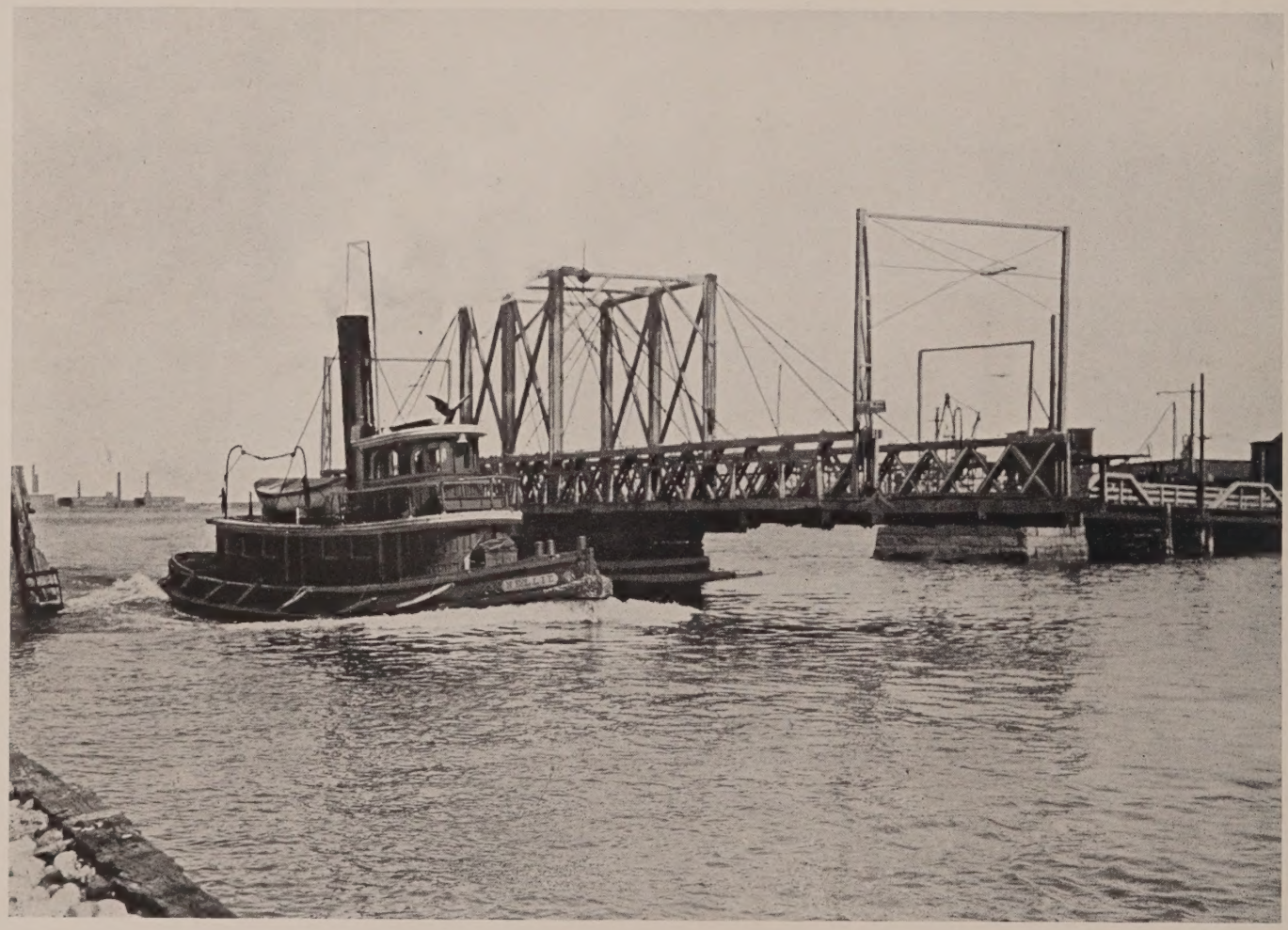


LEAVING FOR MARTHA'S VINEYAAD

Steamers make daily trips from New Bedford to this popular resort, also to Nonquitt Chuttyhunk, Woods Hole and Nantucket, highly patronized summer, resorts along the coast

THE OLD RAILROAD STATION ON PEARL STREET

This old building was torn down about twenty years ago and a brick freight depot built on its site, and a new passenger station erected at the foot of the street



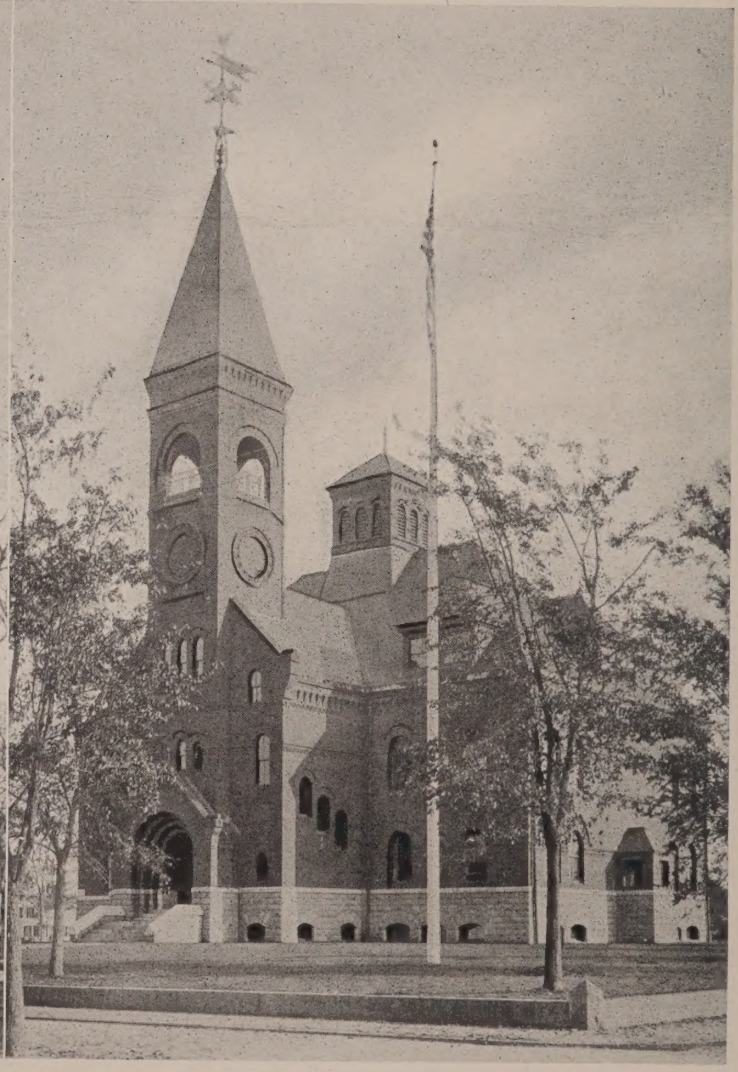
DRAW OF OLD BRIDGE

This drawbridge formed the western frame part of the old wooden bridge formerly connecting New Bedford and Fairhaven

NEW BEDFORD AND FAIRHAVEN BRIDGE

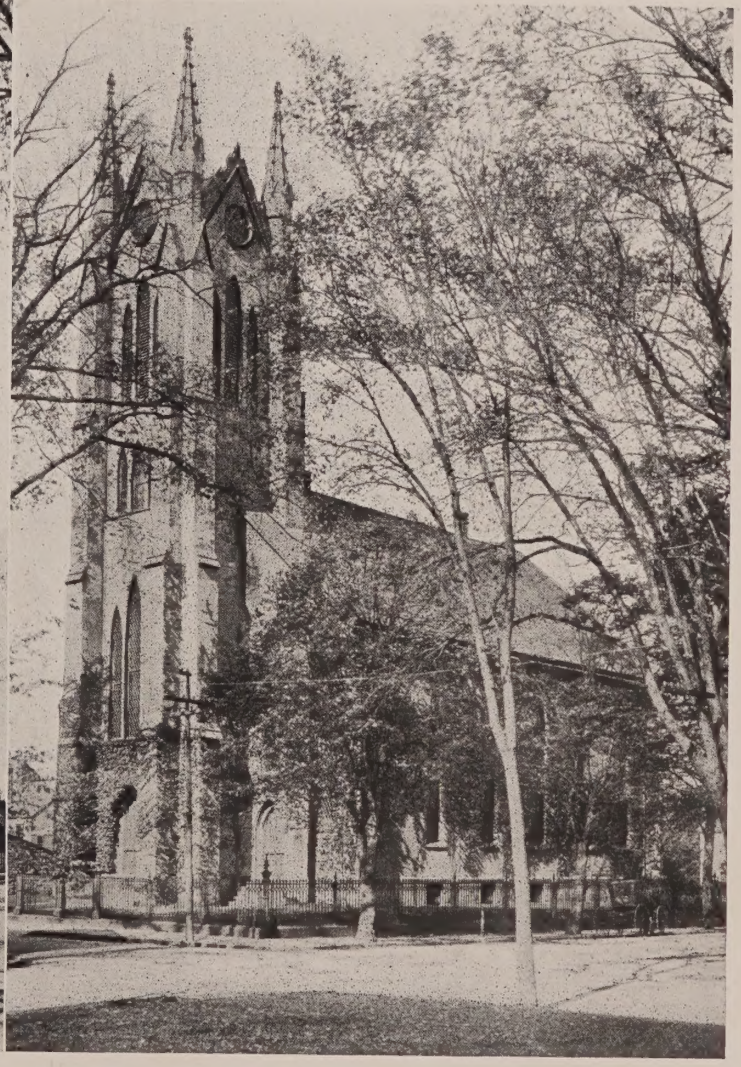
A bridge built of stone, steel and asphalt costing together with the two approaches $1,250,000. It is nearly a mile in length and seventy feet in width. Its drawbridge which is operated by electricity is two hundred and seventy-five feet long

TOWN HALL



ROGERS' SCHOOL

Gifts to the town of Fairhaven from Henry H. Rogers, the Standard Oil Magnate



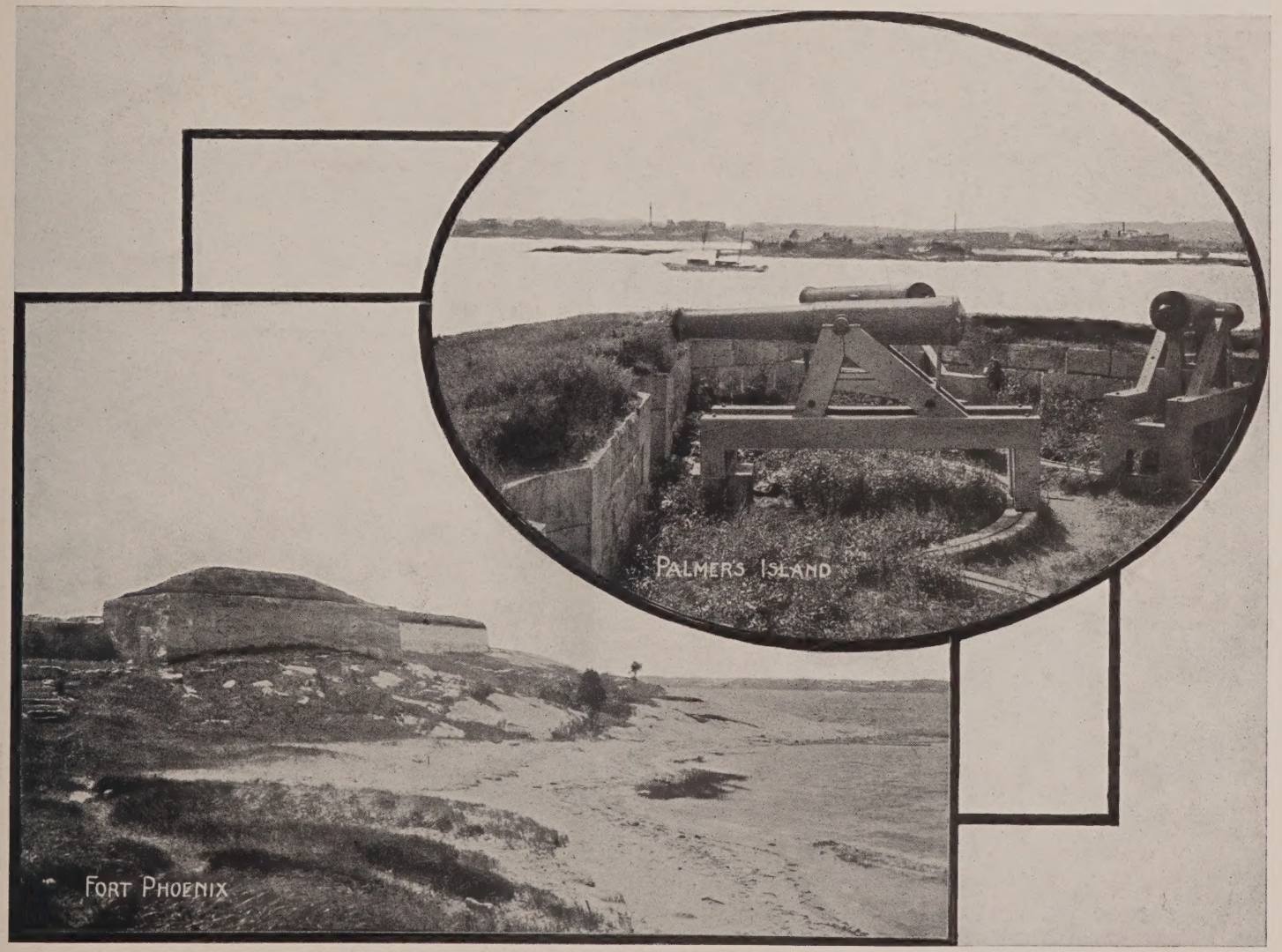
TWO FAIRHAVEN BUILDINGS

OLD UNITARIAN CHURCH
Now used for manual training school and cooking school

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

MILLICENT MEMORIAL LIBRARY

One of Mr. Rogers' many gifts to the town of Fairhaven. This was given in memory of his daughter Millicent, for whom it is named



FORT PHOENIX, FAIRHAVEN

This historic fort dates back to the days of the Revolution

PALMER'S ISLAND FROM FORT PHOENIX

Across the harbor can be seen the mills of the Fairpoint Corporation, manufacturers of silver plated ware, and cut glass, the City Manufacturing Corporation, Potomska and Acushnet Mills

HOME OF H. H. ROGERS, FAIRHAVEN

Mr. Rogers is a native of Fairhaven and spends considerable time here during the year. He is the Superintendent of Streets for the town, receiving a salary of $3.00 a day while work on the streets is going on. He undoubtedly donates many times his salary yearly for the care and improvement of the streets